

Message Text

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62

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 /018 W
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R 171750Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO USDA/FAS WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4786

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3999

TOFAS 69

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: COSTA RICA: QUARTERLY LIVESTOCK REPORT

REF: CODE 13C

I. NUMBERS (000)	1975	1976
A. ON FARMS	260	275

II. SUPPLY AND DISAPPEARANCE (MILLION LBS. CWE)

A. SUPPLY

1. PRODUCTION	133.0	138.0
2. IMPORTS	0.5	0.5
3. TOTAL	133.5	138.5

B. DISAPPEARANCE

1. CONSUMPTION	45.8	47.8
2. EXPORTS	87.7	90.7

\$ (BONELESS)	(65.8)	68.0)
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3. TOTAL	133.5	138.5
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C. PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

1. POPULATION	1,974	2,028
(000)		

2. LBS PER PERSON	23.2	23.6
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III. EXPORTS (000 LBS. BONELESS)

A. TO U.S.

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I	17,928	24,400
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II	13,883	17,200
III	12,480	12,000
IV	19,328	11,400
B. TOTAL U.S.	63,619	65,000
C. OTHERS	2,153	3,000
D. TOTAL	65,772	68,000

IV. COMMENTS -- DEVELOPMENTS SINCE LAST QUARTERLY REPORT.

A) EXPORTS TO U.S. FOR 1975 ADJUSTED TO SHOW ACTUAL EXPORTS. NOTE OFFICIAL DATA SHOWS EXPORTS FOR 1975 ARE 3.0 MILLION POUNDS ABOVE U.S. IMPORT DATA FOR 1975. THIS AMOUNT WAS SHIPPED IN DEC. AND ENTERED U.S. IN JAN.

B) EXPORTS TO U.S. FOR FIRST TWO QUARTERS 1976 BASED ON DATA REPORTED BY NATIONAL PRODUCTION COUNCIL. BARSJIUJHM# MEAT INSPECTION APPLICATIONS, APPROXIMATELY 46.3

MILLION POUNDS APPROVED FOR EXPORT TO U.S. DURING PERIOD JANUARY 1 TO AUGUST 1.

C) DROP IN "YELLOW SHEET" PRICE SINCE LAST QUARTERLY REPORT REFLECTED IN REDUCED PRICES PAID TO CATTLEMEN BY PACKINGHOUSES. CURRENT LIVELWEIGHT PRICE FOR STEERS FOR EXPORT MARKET RANGING COLONES 4.96--5.66/KILO WHILE PRICES FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION CATTLE RANGING COLONES 3.88--4.33/KILO.

D) THE COMPETITIVE SITUATION BETWEEN THE PACKERS IS CURRENTLY KEEN DUE TO PROSPECT THAT VRL WILL BE FILLED WITHIN NEXT 30-40 DAYS. THE PROSPECT FOR LOWER "YELLOW SHEET" PRICES IS ANOTHER FACTOR GIVING INCENTIVE FOR INCREASED KILL AND EXPORT.

E) SALE OF 25,000 HEIFERS TO VENEZUELA STILL APPEARS TO BE DEPENDENT UPON AIR TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS.

F) AGATT FORECAST OF 68 MILLION POUNDS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT 1976 REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS. EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY MEAT INDUSTRY TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE MARKETS. CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL ARE FOR 3 TO 4 MILLION POUNDS.

G) CATTLEMEN AND MAJORITY OF PACKINGHOUSES ESTIMATE TOTAL EXPORT AVAILABILITY AT 65 TO 70 MILLION POUNDS. SOME PACKERS HAVE REPORTED LOWER THAN ANTICIPATED

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CARCASS YIELDS DUE TO POOR PASTURE CONDITIONS THIS YEAR IN PARTS GUANACASTE PROVINCE.
TODMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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